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WITNESS my hand this  
Fourth day of April 2005

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JANENE PEISKER  
TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION  
SUPPORT AND SALES



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**PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION**

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**Invention Title:** **Safety fencing**

The invention is described in the following statement:

## SAFETY FENCING

### **Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to temporary safety fencing.

5

### **Background of the Invention**

For many years it has been considered desirable to provide fencing around building sites in order to prevent unauthorised persons and particularly children entering the site and 10 possibly injuring themselves. In recent years such fencing has become compulsory in many jurisdictions. Typically this fencing comprises chain wire panels supported by tubular galvanised steel uprights themselves supported and located by having their bases inserted in appropriately-sized holes in concrete blocks. It is therefore concrete blocks which support the fence in place rather than having the lower extremities of the uprights 15 buried in the ground as with a permanent fence.

Generally the concrete blocks are extremely heavy and must be carried, according to safe work practices, by more than one person.

20 Also, more recently there has also been a requirement for building sites to incorporate silt fences. These silt fences are intended to prevent erosion and movement of exposed soil from the building site on to adjacent properties. Typically these silt fences comprised a relatively fine thermoplastic mesh buried in the ground at its base and supported in an upright position by attachment to stakes at discreet intervals. Typically silt 25 fences are constructed parallel to safety fencing but spaced therefrom. A silt fence may typically stand approximately one metre inside a safety fence and must be taken down and re-erected when machinery, equipment or building materials enter or leave a site. The space in between the safety fence and the silt fence is also difficult to maintain free of weeds. The dual requirement of a silt fence and a temporary safety fence is therefore 30 cumbersome to construct and inconvenient to maintain during the course of building objects.

The present invention seeks to ameliorate one or more of the above-mentioned disadvantages.

5 According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a temporary fence including a barrier assembly, the barrier assembly including: one or more posts; one or more fence panels associated with respective posts and mounted thereon; one or more anchors for anchoring the posts; the or each anchor including a first piece and a second piece and a cleft disposed between each piece when assembled.

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Preferably a silt barrier is provided, which is operatively connectable to the barrier assembly in such an arrangement that the silt barrier when installed extends generally parallel with the fence panels.

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Preferably, the cleft extends generally parallel with the fence panels when installed, such that some portions of the silt barrier are disposed at least partially within the cleft of the anchor when installed.

20

Preferably, the cleft is disposed generally vertically when the fence is assembled, and in preferred forms the cleft is provided generally transversely across the entire depth of the anchor, between the first piece and the second piece.

25

The first and second pieces may be similar in size construction and materials, however, some embodiments include differing sizing and constructions of the first and second pieces. In one embodiment the first and second pieces are both blocks, in one form constructed from concrete. The or each block is a generally rectangular prism having a longitudinal axis which in use is disposed in generally perpendicular to a plane defined by the fence panels when installed, so as to provide stability from push over or lateral forces.

30

Preferably, the or each block includes apertures for receiving base portions of respective posts. Support for the post is provided by internal walls of the apertures. In

preferred embodiments the apertures are through apertures which extend from an upper face of the or each block to a base face of the or each block when installed upright.

15      Coupling means may be provided to couple two blocks together, so that the posts 5 may access a doubling of anchor mass if required. In one form the coupling means is a separate and distinct conventional fastening feature, such as a belt, bolts, strap, tongue and groove, key and keyway, bar and aperture, or the like. In another form the coupling means is provided by an aperture, which is fully formed when two pieces of a mounting assembly are brought together and selected faces abut one another. In one embodiment, each face 10 incorporates a hollow in the form of half cylinder being cut along a longitudinal axis. This half cylindrical aperture is completed when the face is mated with another mounting assembly block with corresponding recesses therein. To assemble this portion of the barrier assembly, the aperture receives, in this embodiment, a cylindrical post. The post may also be RHS steel or aluminium.

15

20      Preferably the apertures are located along the mating wall, adjacent an end thereof. This is so as to allow the post and block to be given the greatest leverage to resist push over in one of the lateral directions.

20

25      In preferred embodiments the second piece of the anchor is in the form of a plate which has a longitudinal axis which when installed extends perpendicular to the fence panels to provide extra stability. The plate presents a lower height profile which reduces the likelihood of becoming a trip hazard to passers by.

25

30      The or each plate also includes one or more post receiving apertures, each of which support the posts in a generally upright orientation when assembled therein.

30      In some embodiments the posts may be mounted on a spigot, protrusion or boss extending from an anchor piece of smaller external diameter than the internal diameter of the post.

In preferred embodiments the posts are arranged to form a line parallel with the fence panels when installed. In these embodiments, the apertures on the anchor are aligned parallel with the fence panels. In these embodiments, each piece of the mounting assembly is provided with a protrusion, which fits into a corresponding recess on an adjacent piece 5 of the mounting assembly. The apertures for supporting the base of each post are provided in the protrusion.

Further tongue in groove or keyways or similar edge profiles may be provided in the mounting assembly to additionally lock the two pieces together.

10

In other preferred embodiments the posts are arranged to form a line on the anchor which extends perpendicular to the fence panels.

15 In preferred embodiments a base portion of the silt barrier is placed in a trench dug into the ground, and the trench filled in. This is to comply with best practice on the installation of silt barriers.

20 In situations where digging a trench is not possible or not economically viable, such as on concrete or rock beds, concrete or mortar may be poured to weight the base portion of the silt barrier downwards.

25 A restriction assembly may be provided to restrict the gap between the ground and a base portion of the fence panel. The assembly may include a bracket and a post, laid horizontally to engage a sandbag and the silt barrier simultaneously. The bracket may pivot.

It is preferred that two posts support each fence panel. However in some situations it may be preferred that two panels are mounted to each post. This may suit differing designs of panel.

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### **Brief Description of the Drawings**

Some preferred embodiments of the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

5

Figure 1 is a side elevation of prior art temporary safety fencing;

Figure 2 is a side elevation of prior art silt fencing;

10

Figure 3 is a cross section through prior art silt and temporary fencing;

Figure 4 is a transverse section through a combination silt and safety fence in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

15

Figure 5 is a part side elevation of temporary safety fencing in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 6 is a plan view of the weighted bases of fencing in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

20

Figure 7 is a plan view of an anchor assembly in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention;

25

Figure 8 is a side elevation view of the fence in accordance with the second embodiment shown in Figure 7;

Figure 9 is a side elevation view of a third embodiment of the present invention;

30

Figures 10 and 11 are plan views and front elevation views of the embodiment

shown in Figure 9;

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Figures 12-14 are side elevation, plan and section views of a fourth embodiment of the present invention;

Figures 15-17 are, respectively, side elevation, plan and front elevation views of a  
5 fifth embodiment of the present invention;

Figures 18-21 are side elevation, section, plan, and front elevation views respectively of the sixth embodiment of the present invention;

10 Figure 22 is a detailed view of a sandbag and restriction assembly;

Figures 23 and 24 are, respectively, plan view and front elevation views of a seventh embodiment of the present invention;

15 Figure 25 is an isometric view of the first embodiment of the present invention.

#### **Detailed Description of Preferred Embodiments**

It will be observed from Figure 1 that existing temporary safety fencing comprises  
20 a number of chain wire or mesh fencing panels placed in end to end collinear relationship with each other with the bases 2 of the tubular posts 3 forming the ends of each panel 1 being inserted into tubular holes (not shown) in concrete blocks 4 in order to provide support for the fencing. It will be observed that each concrete block 4 receives the bases 2 of tubular posts 3 being tubular posts defining the ends of adjacent panels. Typically the  
25 concrete blocks extend for a significant distance laterally out from each side of the fence as is best viewed in Figure 3.

Typically a silt fence is erected at one side of the temporary safety fencing, the side generally associated with a building site. This silt fence comprises a relatively fine  
30 thermoplastic mesh 6 buried in the ground at its base 7 and supported vertically by stakes

8. As is best viewed from Figure 3 the silt fence is typically spaced approximately one metre from the temporary safety fencing.

According to a preferred embodiment of the present invention depicted in Figure 4, 5 posts 3 of adjacent fencing panels are placed in side by side rather than collinear orientation with respect to each other. In the preferred embodiment shown, a cleft 9 is provided, disposed across the entire depth of an intermediate portion of an anchor which includes two pieces, 12, the cleft 9 extending further between the posts 3. The two-piece construction facilitates easier carrying of the anchor as the anchor may be carried in two 10 trips by a single person, rather than risking a back injury by carrying the whole article at one time. The two-piece construction also facilitates the provision of a cleft suitable for placement of a continuous silt barrier 10 between the pieces and posts so that silt barrier 10 may run along the length of the temporary safety fencing and be supported thereby.

15 It will be observed that in order for the silt barrier 10 having a base 11 buried in the ground to pass through the area where the lower extremities of posts 3 forming the ends of adjacent fencing are supported in anchors 20 in the form of 2-piece mounting assembly 21 in the form of stabilising concrete blocks 12 it is necessary that the base of each adjacent post 3 is supported in an aperture 22 in the form of a tubular hole 13 (best viewed in Figure 20 6) of a separate block 12. The use of two separate blocks 12 where each separate fence panel meets its adjacent fence panel together with the side-by-side rather than end to end orientation of the posts 3 ensures that a cleft between the blocks and posts 3 maybe maintained in order that a silt fence 10 may pass in an uninterrupted manner through this area.

25

It will be appreciated that the orientation of the concrete blocks 12 and posts 3 depicted in Figures 4, 5 and 6 permits attachment of the silt barrier 10 to the safety fence and without the necessity for separate stakes 8 to support the silt fence. The resulting composite silt barrier and temporary safety fence is far neater than in the prior art 30 arrangement depicted in Figure 3 and furthermore is a simple matter to clear the area about the composite fence.

It will be observed that stock yard clamps 15 may be placed at positions 16 and 14 above the top of the silt barrier in order to tie adjacent posts 3 to each other thereby ensuring that the combined stability of concrete blocks 12 is available to each post 3.

5

It should be appreciated that in certain situations only one concrete block 12 may be necessary to stabilise each pair of adjacent posts 3 due to the fact that stock yard clamps 15 join adjacent posts. For example where a safety fence immediately abuts and runs parallel to a footpath the base of one of a pair of adjacent posts 3 may simply be provided 10 with a horizontal laterally-extending non weighted steel plate (not shown) in order to assist in bracing the fence against tipping over the footpath; the adjacent post foot being inserted in a weighted concrete block. Unlike concrete block a horizontal laterally extending non ballasted steel plate would present less of a trip hazard on a footpath.

15

Referring to Figures 9-11 there is shown a fence according to another preferred embodiment of the present invention. A single post is provided at 103 and a support 130 is connected thereto. The base portions 131 and 132 of the post 103 and its support 130 respectively, are received into apertures 113 of separate blocks. The fixed connections at the top of support 130 provides stiffness and a rigid connection, albeit remote, from the 20 anchor assembly 135.

Hooks 136 and 137 are provided, mounted on the post 103, on which to hang a fence panel 101. A retaining means 138 in the form of a clamp 139 is provided to secure the panel 101 to the post 103.

25

As shown in Figure 11, the silt barrier 110 in the form of a geotextile 140 alternates between one side of the fence panels and the other side, the geotextile 140 however always stays in the cleft 109 between the two piece mounting assembly and posts 103.

30

Referring to Figures 12-14 the anchor 220 is in the form of two concrete blocks 212. A coupling means 245 in the form of apertures 222 are provided. A second aperture

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241 is provided by having a recess 242 cut into a face of the or each block. The recess 242 is a half cylinder 243, cut along a longitudinal axis. A corresponding recess 244 is cut into a corresponding face of a concrete block 212. The faces are abutted to assemble, and the post 203 is inserted into the complete aperture, coupling the blocks 212 together. In this  
5 way, the blocks 212 may restrain the post 203 from lateral forces. A flat plate 246 may be used in this embodiment, so that a lower height signature is presented to passers by, reducing trip hazards.

Generally, a base of the silt barrier is buried in a trench as shown at 250. When this  
10 is not possible, such as in the case of a rock floor, sandbags 251 may be provided, or concrete poured on the base portion of the silt barrier. A bracket assembly 870 (Figure 22) is provided to engage geotextile 840 and possibly sandbag 851.

15 Various embodiments are shown in the remaining Figures, wherein like numerals denote like parts.

One embodiment which differs so as to deserve separate comment, is shown in Figures 23 and 24.

20 The arrangement alleviates the "staggering" of the other embodiments. Although the silt barrier 910 must locate on alternate sides of the panels 101, the panels themselves form a single line, as the posts 903 are collinear with the panels 901. This is achieved by having each piece of the mounting assembly incorporating a projection 960 and a corresponding recess 961. Apertures 913 are provided in the projection 960. Keyways or  
25 other locking means may be provided to assist coupling of the blocks 912.

A convoluted cleft is provided at 909 in order to neatly accommodate the silt barrier 910. The silt barrier 910 attaches to the fence panels 901.

30 Advantageously, preferred embodiments of the present invention are easier to install as the lifting required for each anchor is reduced. That is, a single man may carry

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the fence to site and install it single-handedly as per safe work practices. This is facilitated by the or each anchor being in two pieces, each of which may be carried by one person. Back injuries are one of the most common injuries in the construction industry.

5       Throughout this specification and the claims which follow, unless the context requires otherwise, the word "comprise", and variations such as "comprises" or "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated integer or step or group of integers or steps but not the exclusion of any other integer or step or group of integers or steps.

10

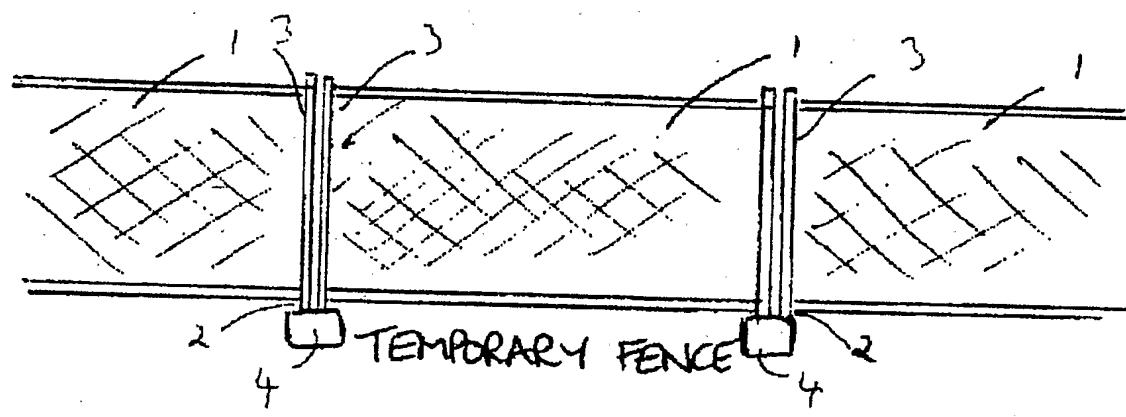
Finally, it is to be understood that the inventive concept in any of its aspects can be incorporated in many different constructions so that the generality of the preceding description is not to be superseded by the particularity of the attached drawings. Various alterations, modifications and/or additions may be incorporated into the various  
15 constructions and arrangements of parts without departing from the spirit or ambit of the invention.

DATED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2004

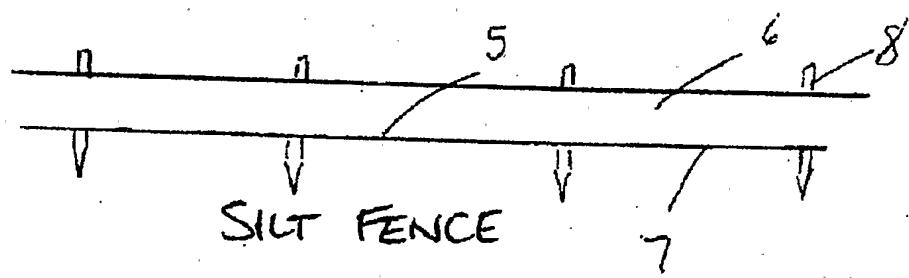
**PETER JOHN MCNEILL**

20 By his Patent Attorneys

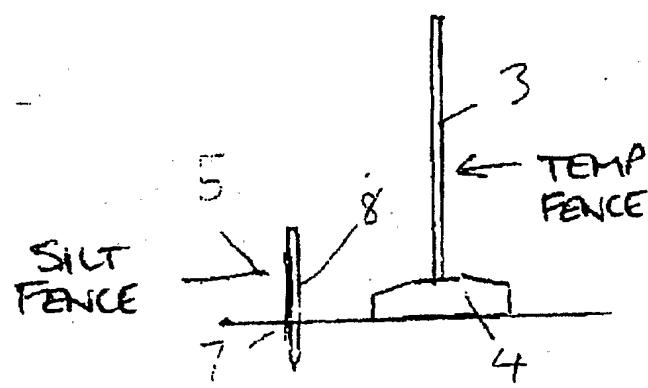
**DAVIES COLLISON CAVE**



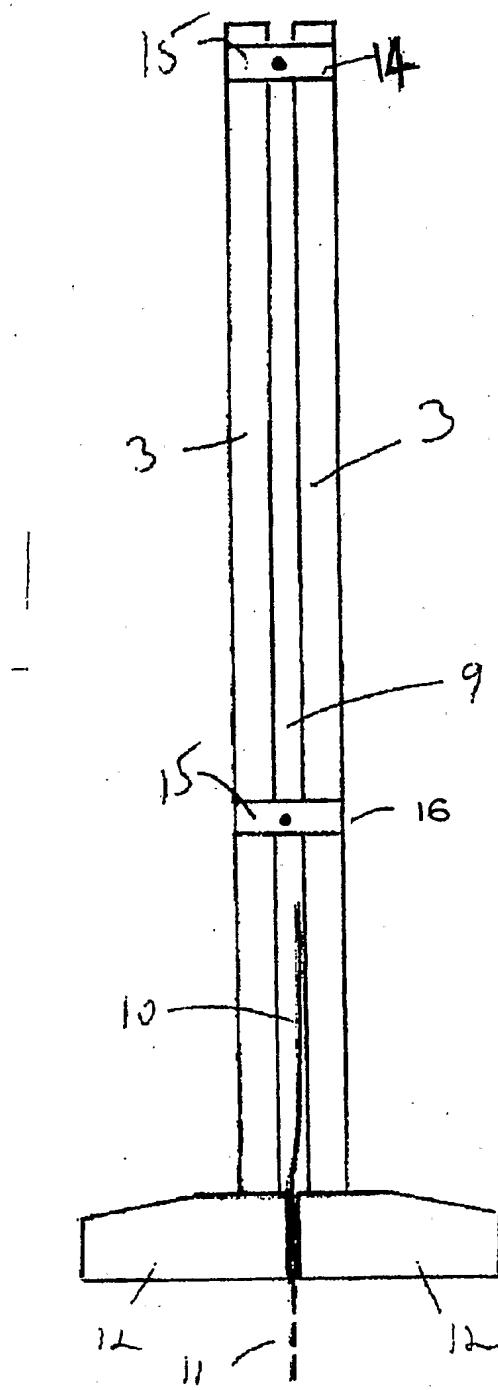
**FIG. 1**



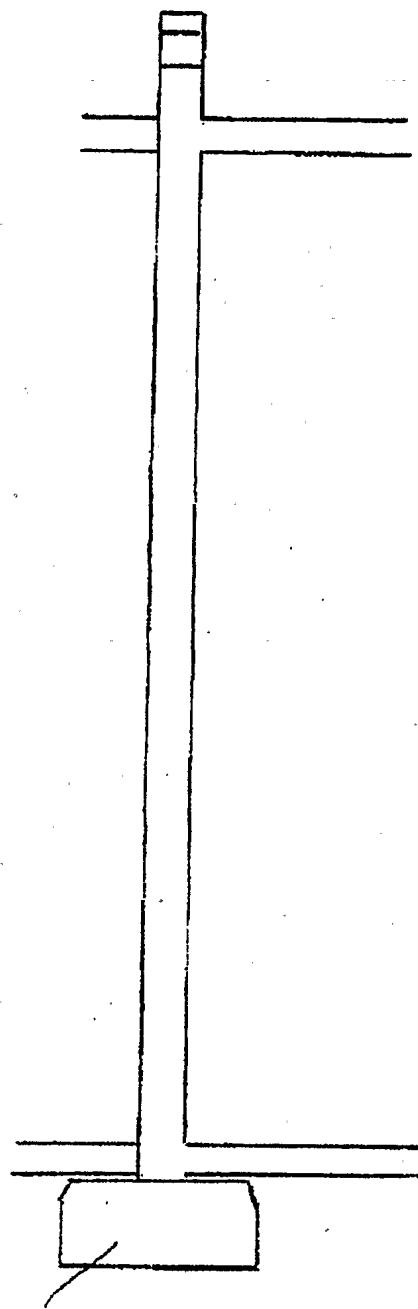
**FIG. 2**



**FIG. 3**

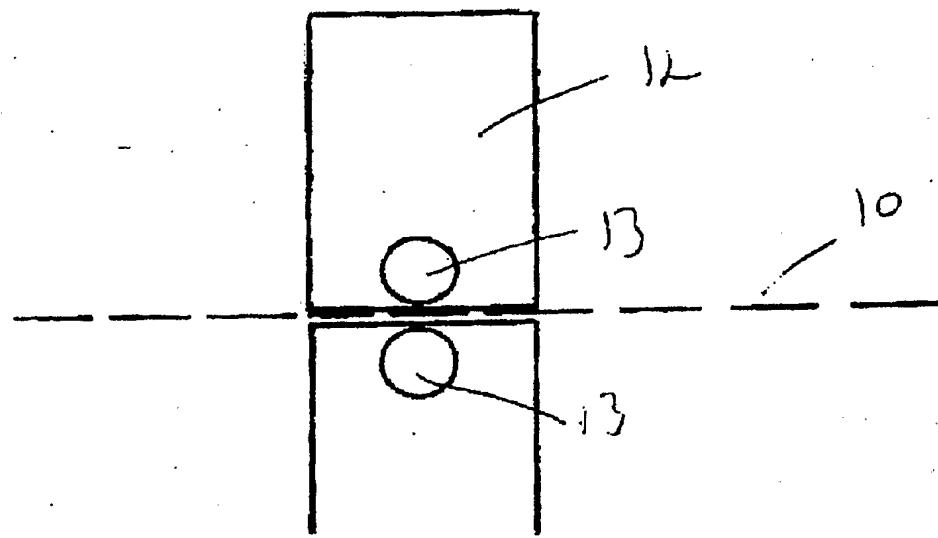


**FIG. 4**

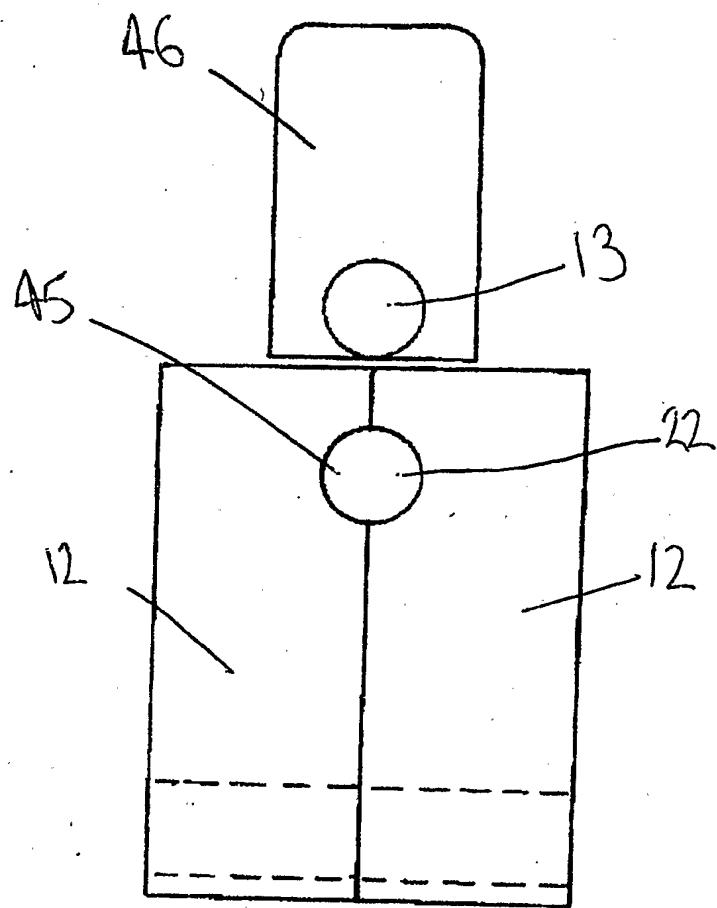


12

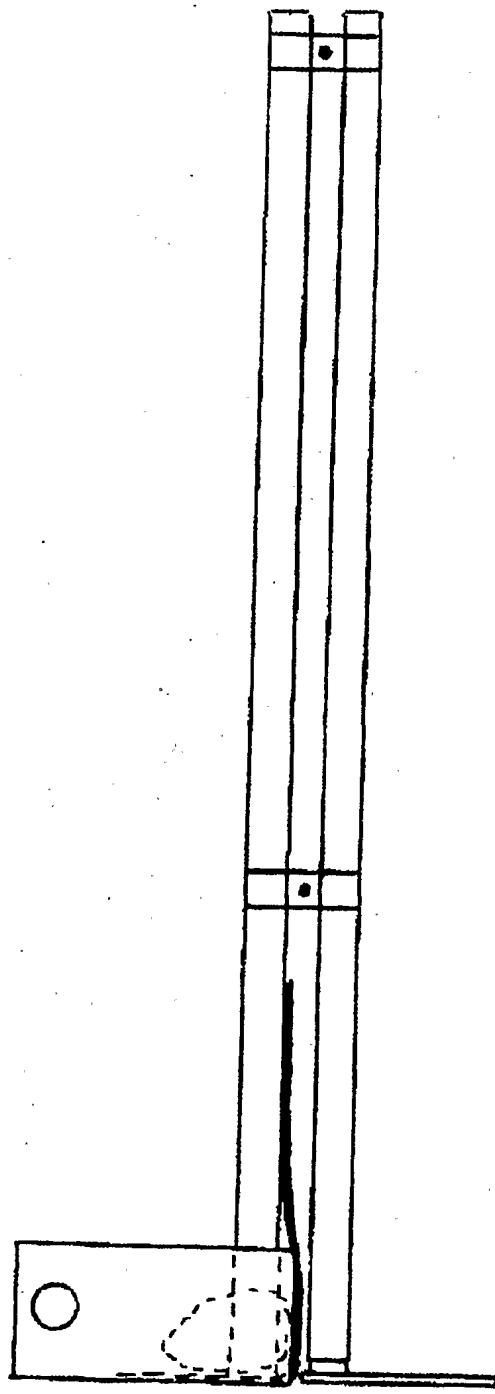
**FIG. 5**



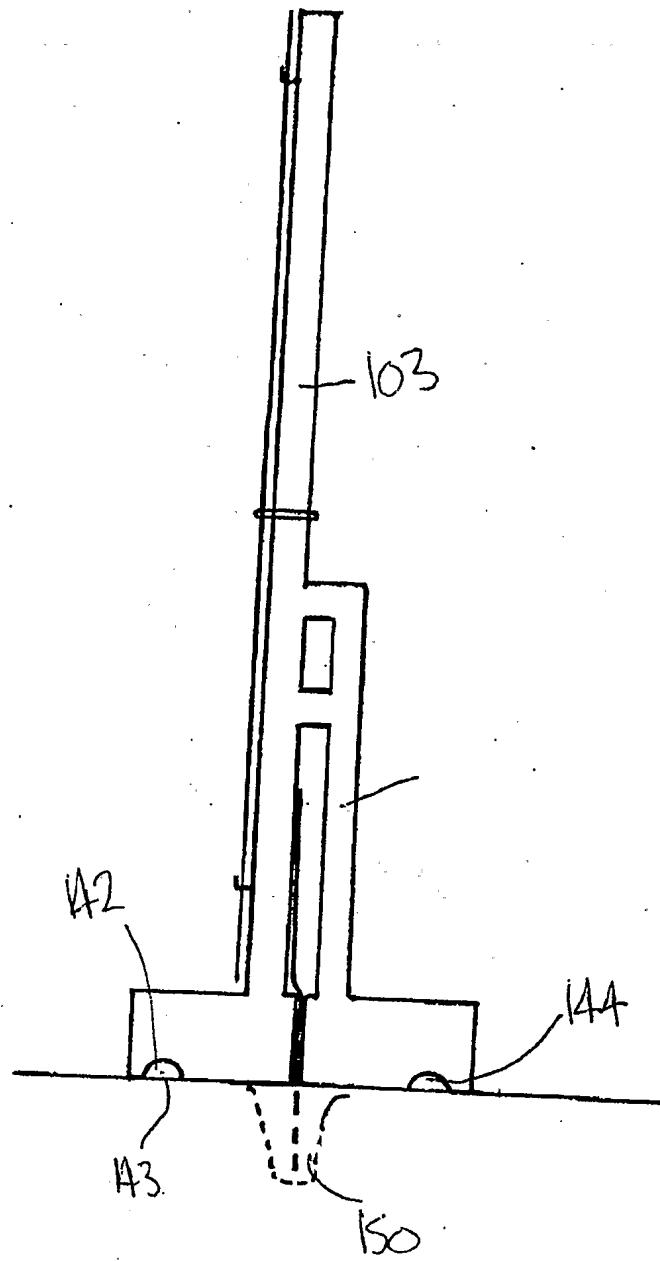
**FIG. 6**



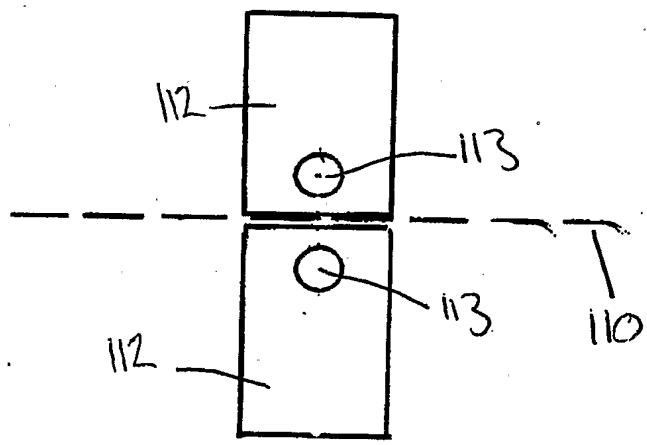
**FIG. 7**



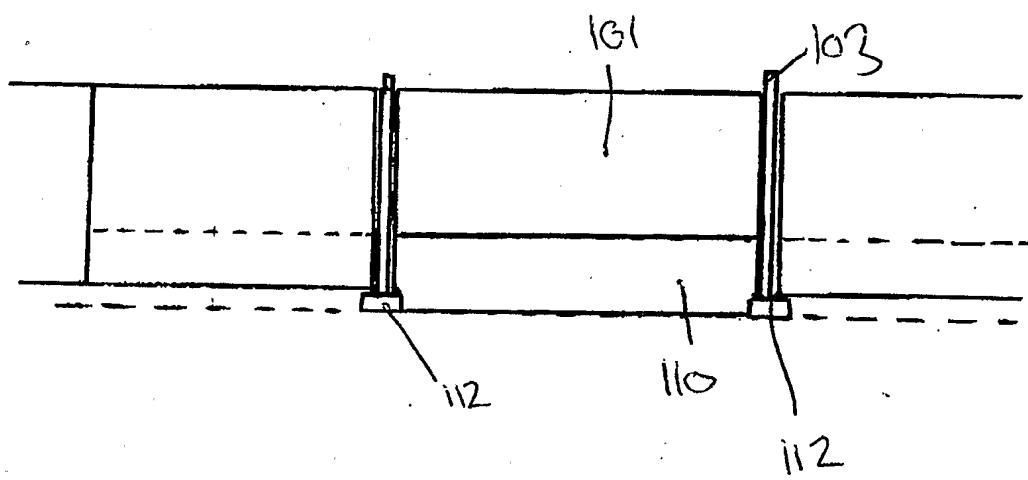
**FIG. 8**



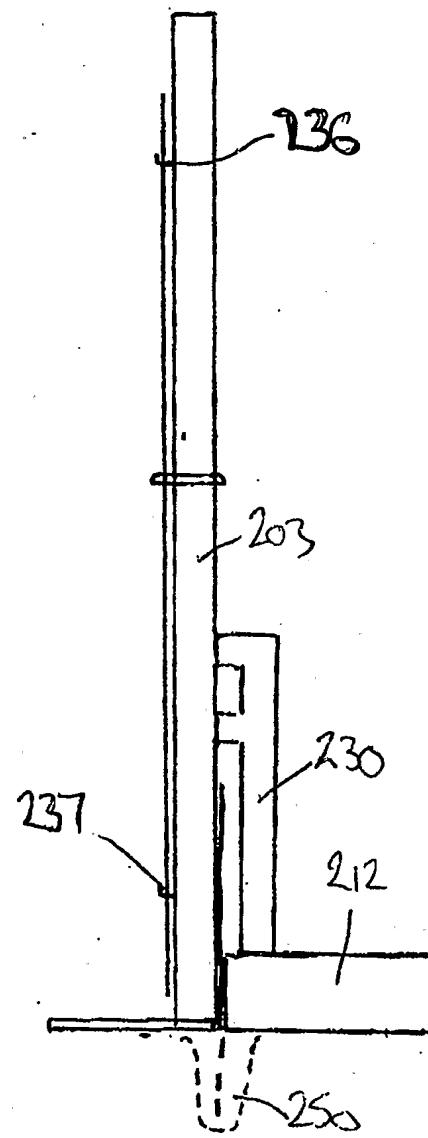
**FIG. 9**



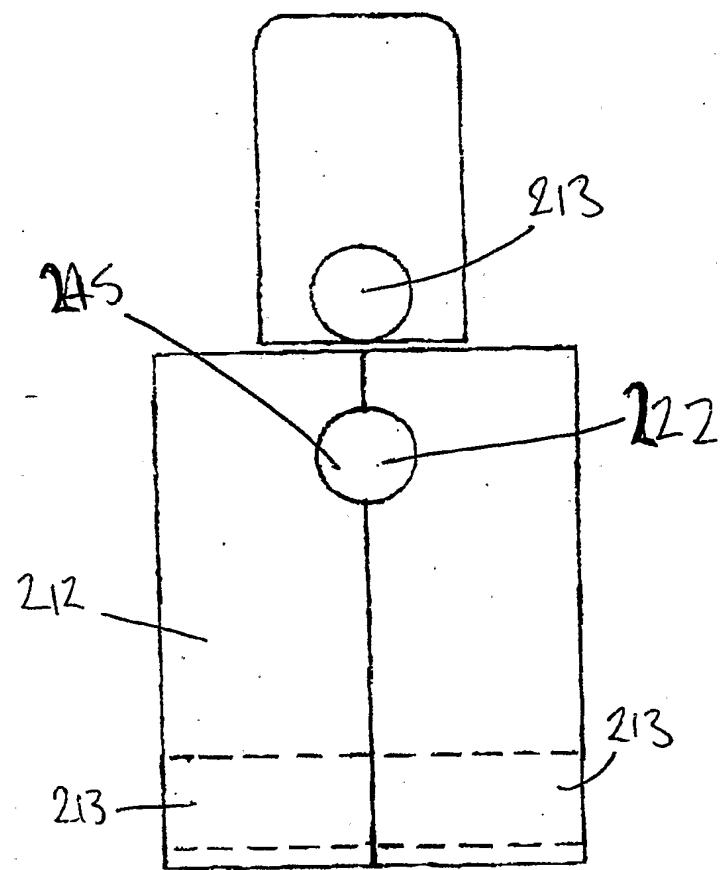
**FIG. 10**



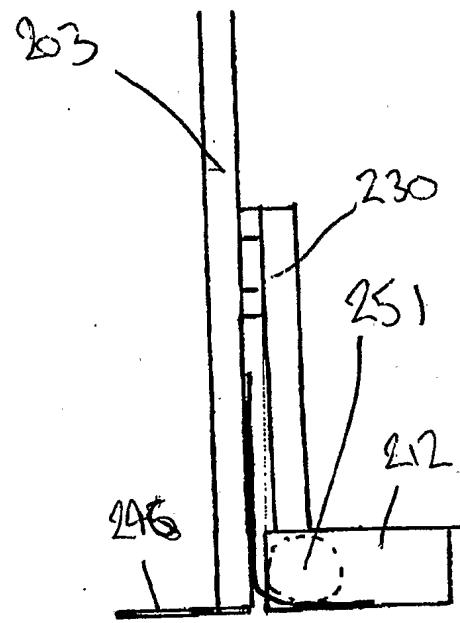
**FIG. 11**



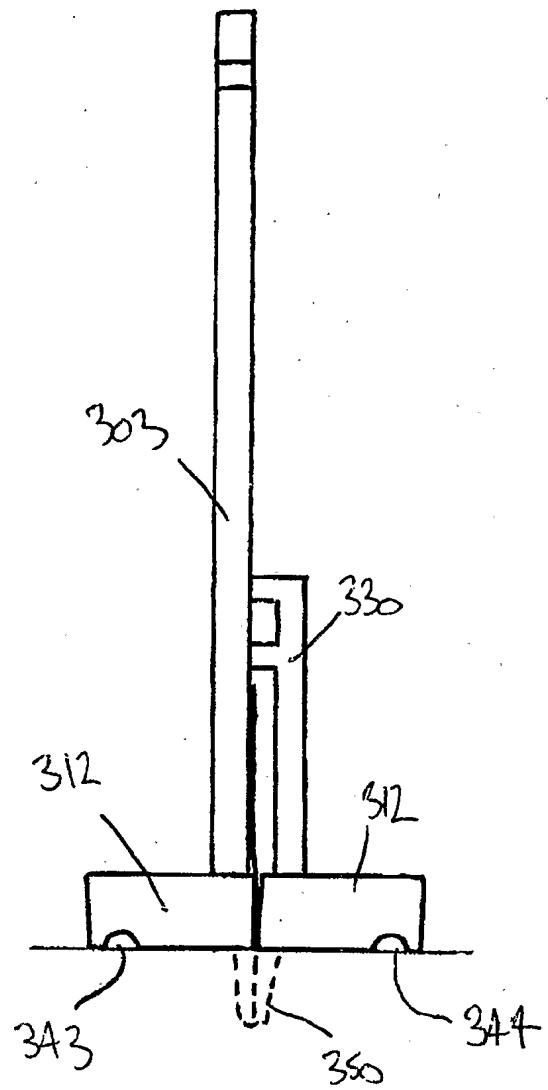
**FIG. 12**



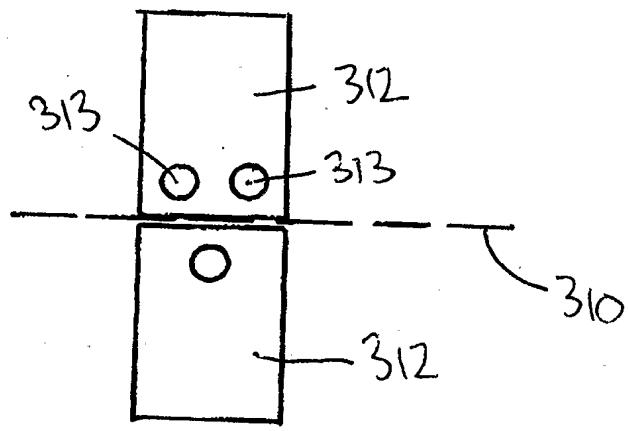
**FIG. 13**



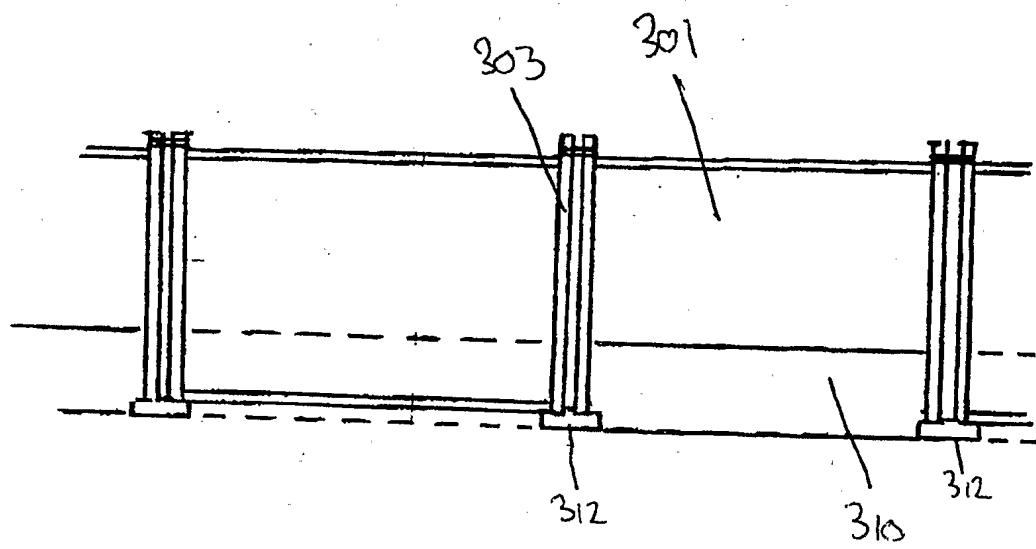
**FIG. 14**



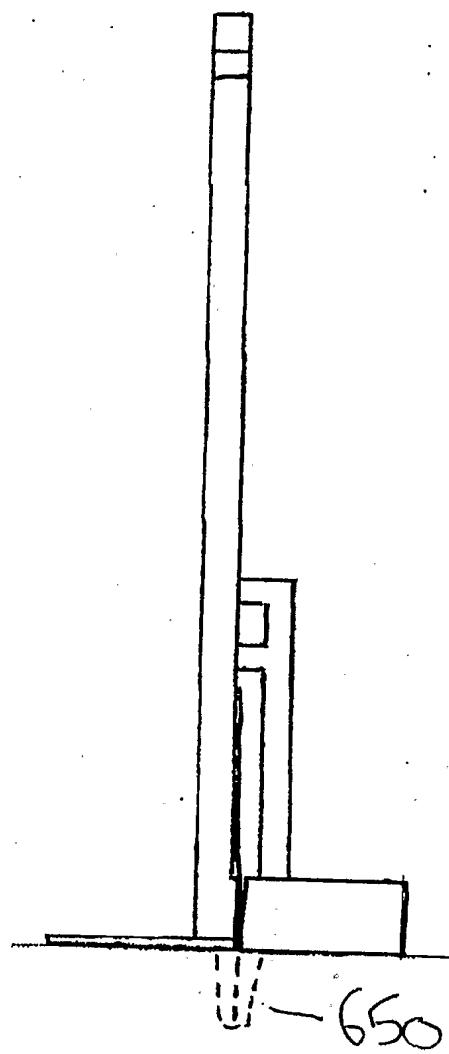
**FIG. 15**



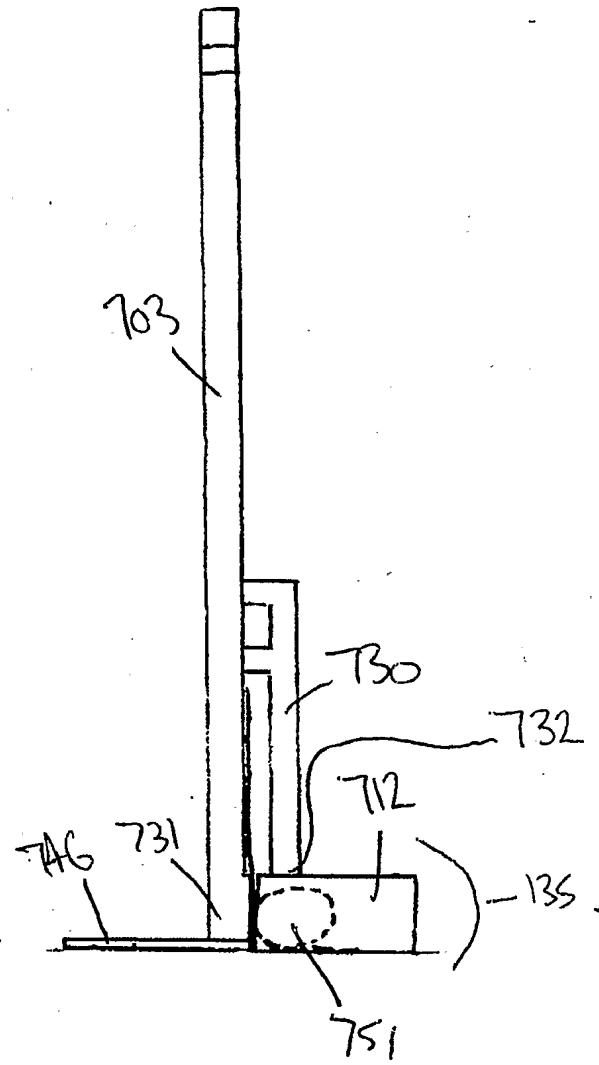
**FIG. 16**



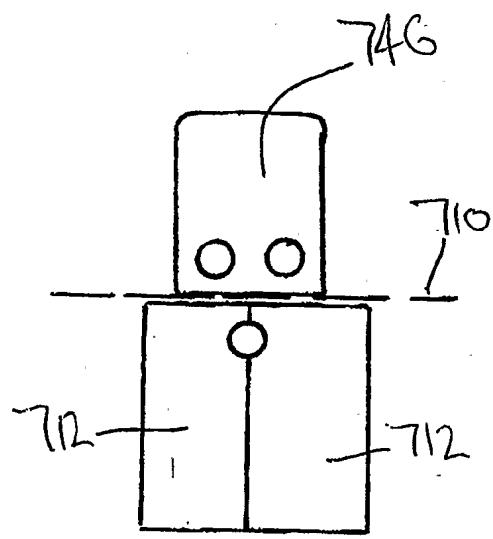
**FIG. 17**



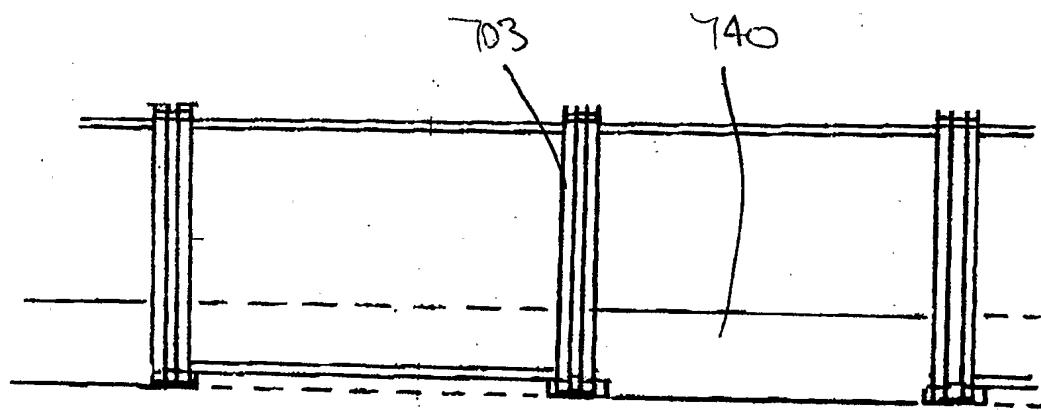
**FIG. 18**



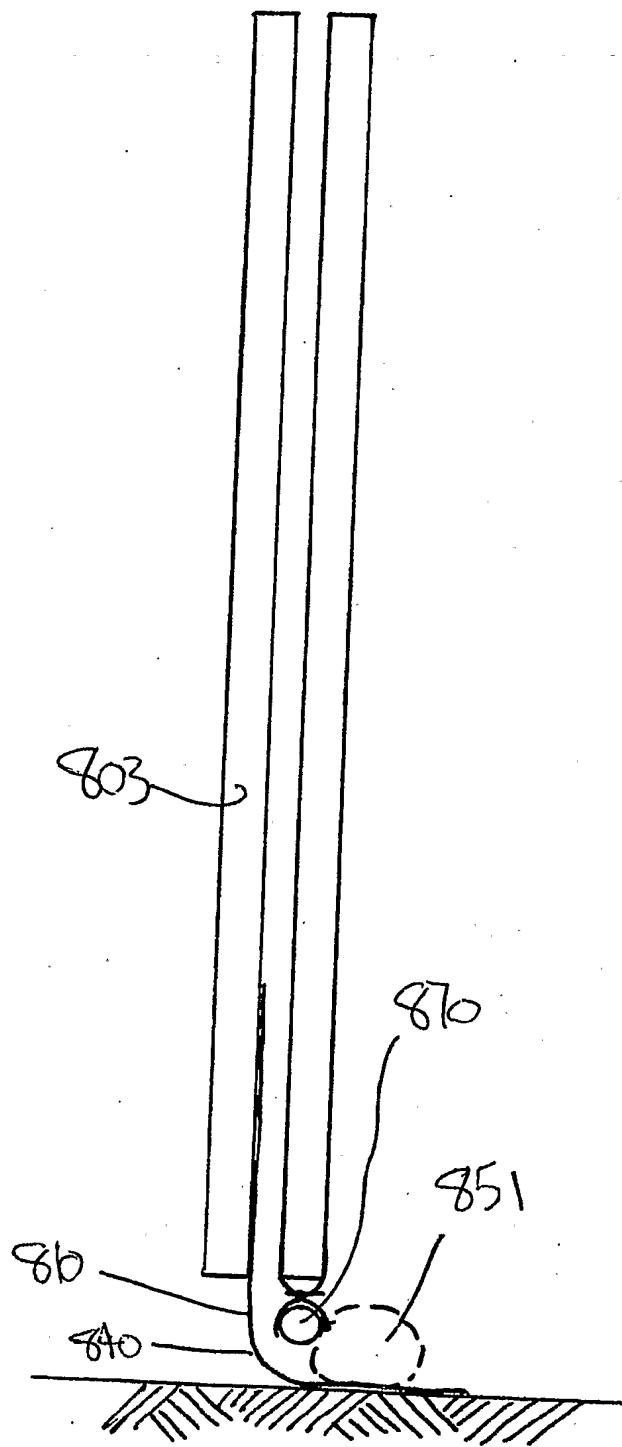
**FIG. 19**



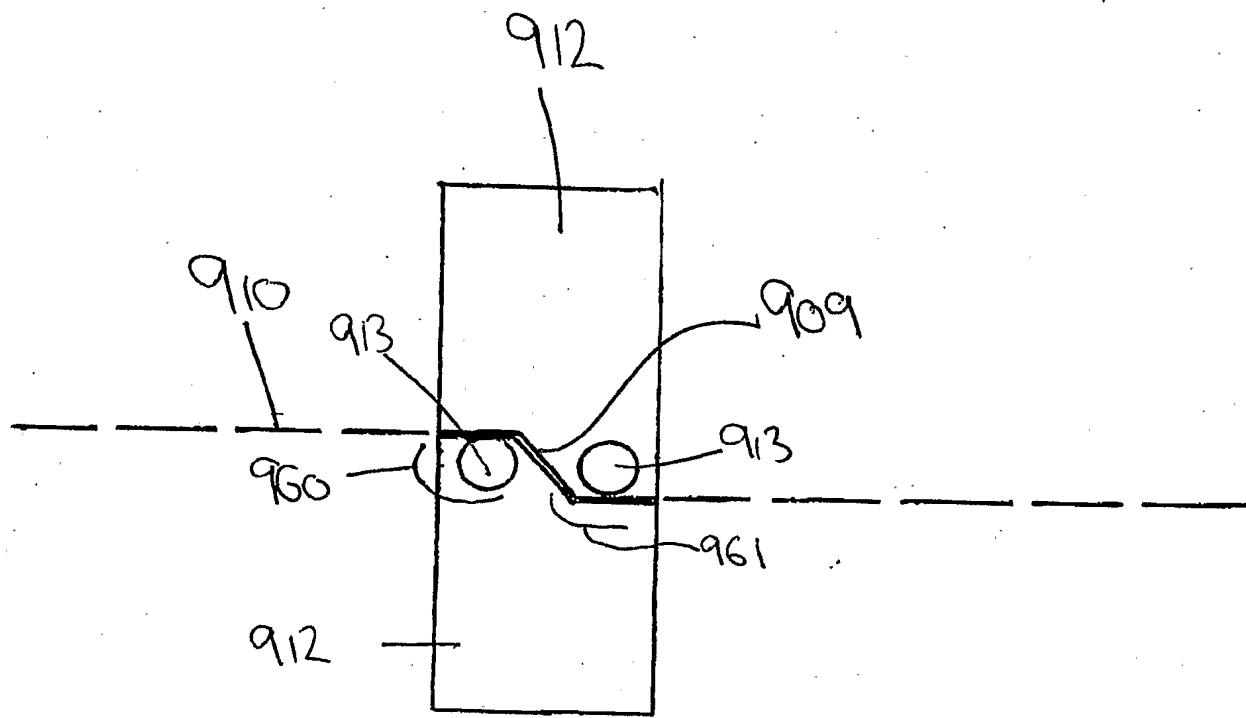
**FIG. 20**



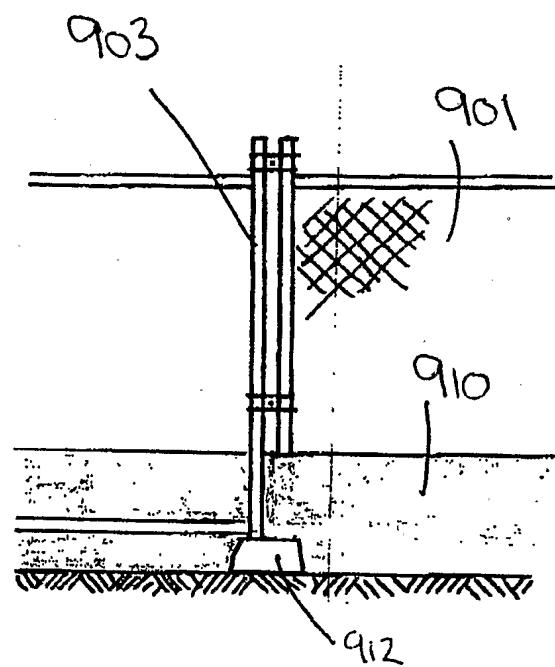
**FIG. 21**



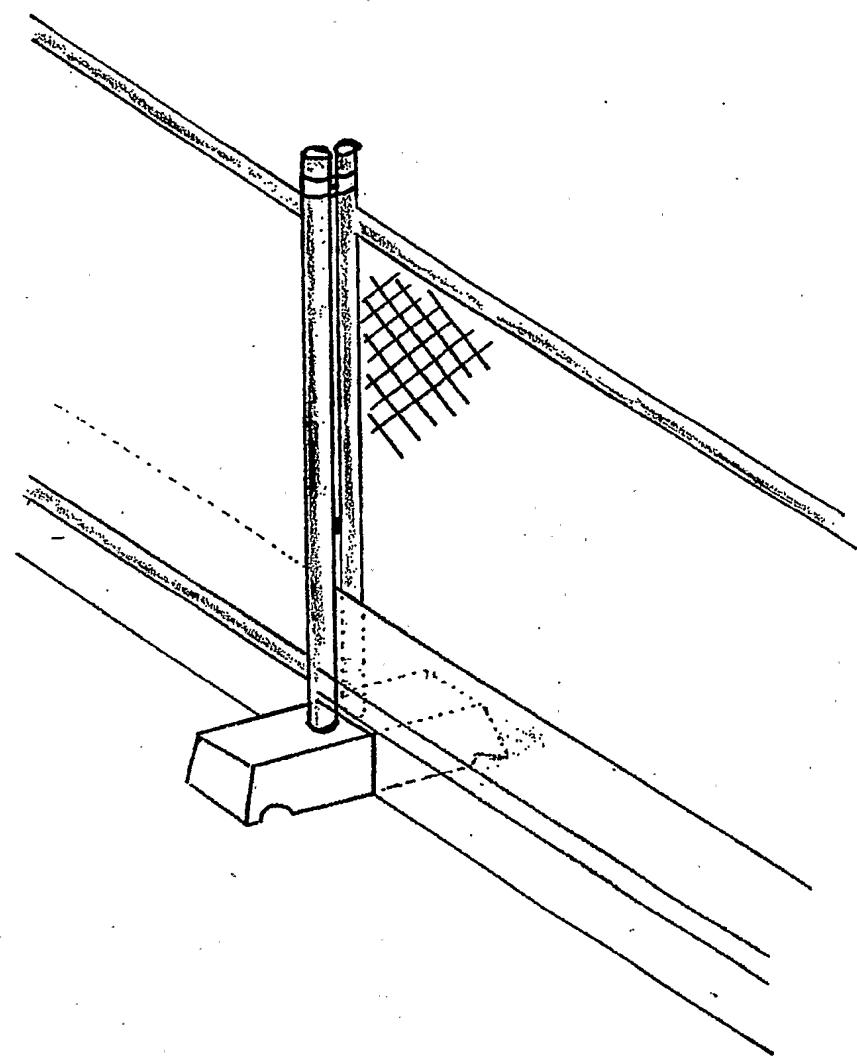
**FIG. 22**



**FIG. 23**



**FIG. 24**



**FIG. 25**